

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the final Office Action dated December 23, 2008, are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 4, 11, 28-30, 32 and 34-37, and 39-42 are pending with Claims 4, 11, 32 and 37 being independent. Claims 27, 31, 33 and 38 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 4, 11, 28-30, 32, 34-37 and 39-42 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure at least, for example, in Figs. 9 and 10 and the corresponding description with respect to the “JobDataDone” message and the “JobEnd” message. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 4, 11 and 27-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,886 (Suzuki et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,324,226 (Fritz). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in Claim 4, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of a control unit configured to (i) if a reception unit has received a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, display information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user’s operation before completion of a print process, by the

printer, of the image to be printed, until the communication is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed, and (ii) if the reception unit receives the print completion message while the communication is connected, enable the selection of another image to be printed by a selection unit.

According to these features, a user can know when it is safe to disconnect communication between a camera and a printer without interrupting the printing of an image. In particular, if all data for an image has been received by a printer, information is displayed to indicate that the user can disconnect the communication between the camera and the printer, even if the image has not finished printing. The information is displayed until the user disconnects the communication or until a print completion message is received. Further, if the print completion message is received while the communication is connected, selection of another image to be printed is enabled.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 4. Fritz discloses, as pointed out in the Office Action, that the entity 501 sends a message comprising a request to stop a print job when all data to be printed in the print job is sent to the printer in column 6, lines 11-16. However, according to Fritz, once the request to stop the print job is sent, the communication is quickly and automatically disconnected (see Figs. 7 and 13). That is, Fritz does not need to display information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation, because communication is automatically disconnected.

The Office Action also asserts that "it is obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art by closing the connection means that there is no more communication between the

processing unit and the printer, and if there is no connection the cable can be detached.”

Applicants respectfully disagree. According to the invention of Claim 4, if a reception end message is received indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, information is displayed to indicate that the communication between the digital camera and the printer *can be* disconnected by a user’s operation. Thus, the user is given the option of whether to disconnect. If the user is finished selecting images to be printing, the user knows the communication can be disconnected without waiting for printing to be completed. On the other hand, if the user intends to select additional images for printing, the user need not disconnect the communication. Applicants submit that this is far different from automatically disconnecting communication.

Since both Suzuki et al. and Fritz are silent about keeping the communication connected to enable selection of another image to be printed, while displaying information indicating that the communication can be disconnected by the user’s operation, Applicants submit that the invention of Claim 4 is patentable over the cited art.

The other independent claims include features similar to those of Claim 4 discussed above and are believed patentable for reasons similar to Claim 4.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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